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A GENUINE
NARRATIVE
OF THE
LIFE and ACTIONS

OF
JOHN PARRY, K

(Late Steward to the Most Noble the Marchioness Dowager of Rockingham,)

Who received Sentence of Death, in *April* Sessions, 1754, at *Justice-Hall* in the *Old-Bailly*, for divers Robberies on Persons of Quality, &c. in and about the Squares at the Court-End of the Town, as they were returning home from their Evening Visits.

C O N T A I N I N G

An authentic Account of his villainous Behaviour to the noble Lady whom he serv'd; and the Methods he contriv'd to defraud and impose on her Ladyship's Tradesmen, of whom he fraudulently borrowed considerable Sums of Money before he made his Escape to *France*. With a historical Account of his Behaviour there, and in *Italy*, and what befel him before he returned to *ENGLAND*.

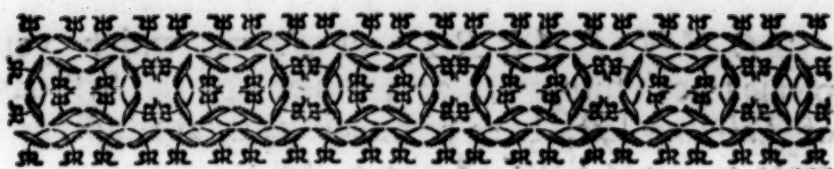
L O N D O N:

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[Price SIX-PENCE.]

W. Musgrave!





T H E
LIFE and TRANSACTIONS
O F
JOHN PARRY, &c.

FOR an INTRODUCTION to this Narrative nothing further need be said, than that it makes its appearance in the world at the request of many persons of eminence in the most genteelest parts of the town. This daring and audacious robber, during his short-liv'd reign, had alarmed the public very much; and more so, because he robbed in an uncommon manner on horseback in the most public squares, and at a time when people of quality were returning home from paying their evening visits; so that had not a stop been put to his career, it would have been of the greatest consequence to the common safety. The first and last person (*Parry* only excepted) that had the assurance to rob on horseback in the public squares (at the court-end of the town) was *John T--yl--r*, whose first attempt succeeded, but the consequence prov'd fatal; for that young spark offering Mrs. *B--*'s watch to sale, he was stopp'd at *Briscoe's* in *Cheapside*, try'd for the felony, and capitally convicted. As this is a digression from our present purpose, we shall stop here, and proceed to the account of our present hero.

JOHN PARRY, or *Perry*, which you please to call him, was 27 years of age the first day of *February* last, born of honest and creditable parents at *Ponty-Pool*, *Monmouthshire*, in the principality of *Wales*, where his father now lives, and keeps a public-house; but, according to the intelligence we have received from thence, the poor old man is deeply afflicted for the melancholy situation of his son. As the father was originally brought up in the service of gentlemen, he never intended his son *John* for any laborious business; nor indeed was he willing to be put out apprentice, having too aspiring a spirit to be bred a mechanic.

WHEN he was at a proper age he served some gentlemen of note in the country, with credit and reputation, in the capacity of a menial servant, and came up to *London* with good recommendations. The first gentleman he served in town was Sir *Charles-Hanbury Williams*, knight of the Bath, his majesty's minister to the court of *Berlin*, and since to the elector of *Saxony*; we do not hear that he behaved amiss with Sir *Charles*; for after he had once quitted this honourable gentleman's service, he was entertained a second time in the capacity of a *Valet*: and being a genteel young spark of good address, and a winning deportment, he had learnt the art of ingratiating himself into every one's good graces; and happy might it been for him had his actions corresponded with his seeming good behaviour.

OF such a cast of mind was *Parry*, that he was never at a loss to disguise his villanies, without incurring the least suspicion or censure from his superiors. None but his most intimate companions were acquainted with his nocturnal revelries and debaucheries: Those sort of infamous gentry, who frequent

frequent the gaming-houses in *Covent-Garden* and its purlieus, the *Fives-courts*, &c. all knew the famous Mr. *Parry*; and perhaps there was not a man of greater agility in *England*, nor one who understood the game of *Fives* better, or could play it so well; yet the frequent and expensive excursions he made to these places of rendezvous, often drain'd him of his cash, and put him on such expedients to replenish himself as was sure, one time or other, to end in his certain ruin: so that before he quitted (for the last time) the service of the before-mention'd gentleman, he had run himself pretty much a ground, and was sometimes reduc'd to the mean shift of pledging his apparel; for we all know there is nothing so much galls a loosing gamester as to be unprovided with the necessary funds to discharge his debts of *honour*; which if neglected to be paid, however popular he may be otherwise, he is sure to be branded with the eternal infamy of a scoundrel and a beggar.

WE need not mention how many young fellows the *gaming-tables* have brought to the gallows: the unwary are first drawn in by the *knowing ones*, as they are call'd; and when youth of low fortunes are once entangled, there's no retreating; for their resolutions so to do, generally speaking, are too weak, and the temptations they meet with very strong; so that they continue their wicked courses until their ruin is fully compleated.

It is notorious to all the town, notwithstanding the greatest care and vigilance of the magistrates, that shoals of rascally *Gamblers* at present swarm in the politest parts of *London* and *Westminster*; and I could heartily wish that a certain house, not a mile from *Covent-Garden*, lately open'd on a NEW PLAN, to draw-in the gay bloods and *Jemmies*, and gull them

them of their pence, *may not at last be prostituted as a receptacle for the tricking part of second-hand gentry*, who, like a swarm of locusts, infest this great city and its suburbs; and who are become such a pest to their country, that they infect the very air where they breathe. But, to return to *Parry*:

WHEN he quitted the service of *Sir Charles*, he was recommended to *James Brudenel*, Esq; a very worthy gentleman and member of parliament, where he behaved himself tolerably well; but yet could not refrain his *favourite games*, and a too frequent resort to the bagnios, to divert himself with that unhappy part of the fair sex, whose chief business is to pluck the feathers of their amorous cullies, and then send them off entirely stript of their gaudy plumes. This was too often the case of *Parry*, for no young fellow on earth was more addicted to this sort of company than himself; he was ador'd by the ladies of the town, and had it in his power, at any time, to furnish a friend with a brace or two of these *dainty damsels*, clean and fit for any gentleman's use. And what is very extraordinary in these sort of ladies, they have not deserted him even in this his greatest calamity; for coaches, from the bagnios in the gay part of the town, are daily hurrying to *Newgate*, fill'd with these *decoy ducks*, who go thither to pay their compliments of condolance to their favourite *Jackey Parry*, and are sure to carry with them the greatest dainties that money can purchase. What a preposterous infatuation is this! that a man, in his circumstances, should suffer himself to be pester'd with *these vermin*, who, like a crocodile, weep dissembling tears over the *head* after they have devour'd the *body*.

AFTER

AFTER *Parry* had quitted Mr. *Brudenel's* service, finding his circumstances in a very indifferent situation, and likelier to be worse than to amend, he very prudently, and at the request of his *honest* friends (tho' few such he had) to hire himself to the brave and gallant Capt. *Jasper*, commander of his Majesty's ship the *Eagle* of 60 guns; and with this gentleman he continued upwards of five years, having been a voyage up the *Streights*, when the *Eagle* went out on a cruise, and afterwards became a station'd ship.

THIS generous and well respected commander was so well pleased with the behaviour of his man *Parry*, that he not only made him his clerk, but promoted him to be the ship's steward, which were employments of good credit, and very profitable; his behaviour, which to do him justice, to the seamen, was such as gain'd him the esteem of the whole crew; and when he returned to *England*, he brought home a pretty considerable sum of Money, notwithstanding when he had an opportunity of being on shore, he appeared very gay, and frequented the public assemblies; but as to a particular detail of his behaviour there, we can give no account, only that he is charged with living a very loose and abandon'd life among the Women, many of whom seem'd charm'd with his deportment.

AFTER he arrived in *England*, and settled his affairs, he had interest enough to get himself recommended to the most Noble the Marchioness Dowager of *Rockingham*, with whom he lived about three Years in the genteel and profitable employment of her Ladyship's steward. All the cash for the household expences of that noble Family went thro' his hands, so that he now had a fair opportunity of making a fine market; and I do assure my readers
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that he was not idle; *for all* (with *Jack*) *was fish that came to net*; not one tradesman, with whom his Lady dealt, escaping from his clutches.

In this service he appear'd more gay and shining than he had ever done before, and soon found out the blind side of his Lady's tradesmen, as will appear by the sequel; he was now consider'd as a very principal man, and had the assurance to push himself into the company of these great men who frequent *White's*, the *St. James's*, *Cocoa-tree*, *Smyrna*, &c. and many of them took too much notice of him on the score of his being a great tennis and fives player; and he was beside what the town call a *blood*, and a very pretty fellow. I knew one just of the same class with *Parry*, a mighty man at the tennis-court, who was some years ago try'd in *Surry*, for robbing a gentleman on the highway but by the assistance of a certain Nobleman who appeared to his character, he was acquitted; so that I shall rest his affair here, because it was only introduc'd to shew gentlemen what a dangerous and wicked set of young fellows haunt those places of public resort, and whose company and conversation ought at all times and in all places to be avoided, especially by men of figure, as well as those of an inferior class, who have any regard for their reputation.

As the inimitable Mr. *Gay*, in his *Beggar's Opera*, observes that *Marybone* and the *Gaming-tables* have undone Capt. *Macheath*, so the tennis-court, fives, and the gaming-tables, &c. have entirely ruin'd Capt. *Parry*; and tho' he was not betray'd by one of his *Ladies*, yet he may justly impute the real cause of his destruction to their conversation. He had learnt so many artful and tricking ways at the tennis-court, &c. that we think it not very improper to trespass a few minutes on our reader's patience to
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give a short detail of the villainy of the tennis court, which is eldest sister to the game of fives.

THIS *Game of Tennis* depends purely upon skill and activity, and is not to be acquired without considerable experience and practice, on which account indeed it has had the advantage of most of the rest, and abundance of sharpers and cheats have been kept out of it, for want of money to pay the charge of the court, and other expences that are consequent to it. But this, however harmless and inoffensive it was in its original and design, has of late incurred the same fate with most of the diversions of that nature, and is strangely degenerated from a noble and genteel exercise, into a perfect trade for *Rooks* and *rascally Sharpers*, who perceiving it would necessarily be a good foundation for them to get a base livelihood by, have cunningly twisted themselves into the knowledge and perfection of it. As to the game itself, a person that has never seen it before can make but little on't, except it be any curiosity or diversion to him to see three or four persons furiously running after a few little balls, and labourously bandying and tossing them about from one to another; if this were all, 'twere well enough, but when he hears the marker calling *Forty, love and a chase*, and sees them changing their sides, and hears the players wrangling and swearing about the taking of *Bisks* and *Faults*, and talking of *Cuts* and *Twists*, &c. he presently concludes there must be some wonderful secret in all this; and so is resolved to satisfy himself a little further. If he gets into the *Dan* amongst the sharpening gentry that come there to *bett*, and has the misfortune to ask any questions, or declare his ignorance, they presently give out the word, *That here's a mouth come*; and then two or three of the sharpest of the gang come up with him presently in order to give him some little insight, and directions

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into the game, that they may prepare him against an opportunity to take him in; here they tell him, it's all even and odd, a perfect lottery, and that he may venture his money on either side, for 'tis all equal, and so indeed, in some sets it is, for the noblemen and gentlemen that are acquainted with the game, and play it upon the square, and more for the reputation of good gamesters, than for interest, commonly make their matches so very nicely, that the best *Sharper* and *Judge* amongst them can hardly (before the set's begun) tell which way to bet his money; here, perhaps, he wins half a piece or a guinea, which inclines him to believe that this must needs be a very fair game, that a stranger can get money at it at first sight; and truly, as long as this match lasts, he's in no great danger; but then against this is over, there's another set ready to step into the court, that will be sure to do his business. The managers and marker tells him it is all equal now too; that such a one is a good *Striker-out* but the other is a better *Back-hand*; that a third judges a ball *finely*, but that a fourth plays for a *Chace* much better than he; so that upon the whole they conclude it a very good match, and that he will see these gentlemen make better play than the former; here they will offer him his choice, or to throw cross or pile, which side he'll take; if he complies, and they have taken him in as far as the thing will conveniently bear at once, then the sign is made to the players that they may *manage* their parts; when the set is over, which is commonly play'd with as much seeming eagerness and fury, and withal with the greatest equality that can be; why then with some little sham quarrels, and wranglings, about adjusting the odds, &c. they agree upon another game. Here they attack the stranger again; *Come Sir, you had the misfortune to be on the wrong side the last time, tho' it was a very hard match and no body*

dy cou'd tell who had the best of it, 'till the very advantage-game; take your choice, for we don't covet to carry off your money. And so they draw him on from one set to another, and from little bets to great ones ('till they have *Struck* him, as they call it) and then seldom part with him 'till they have sent him away *sweet and clean*, as these gentry are pleased to express themselves.

THERE are such a set of scoundrels frequent the *Tennis-Courts* about town, that there is seldom a match play'd, (except by gentlemen of figure) but there is either a bribed *Marker*, or some gentleman that has first lost his estate, and then his honour, and so is forced to comply with these sharpers to get his bread; or some scoundrel that never had an estate or honour either, but had acquired the game by a diligent attendance at the *Court*, that is appointed the judge in every case; so that it is morally impossible that a stranger should ever get a shilling amongst these *Leeches*, but is sure to be imposed upon at last, and made the laughter and ridicule of a company of *lazy, sharpening villains*; all of them have so perfect an idea and notion of a set, and so many mysterious methods to turn and wind their bets, and to bring themselves off when they have the worst, that a person must have a natural sharpness of temper and genius, back'd with a long practice and experience, before he can be a tolerable master of the faculty. ——— This is as near as I can inform my reader the practices of these *Tennis-Court sharpers*; and I believe every one, who is acquainted with them, will join with me that I have advanc'd nothing but what is strictly true.

PARRY's favourite game was *fives*, which is a diversion and exercise as well as *Tennis*, and was formerly a game but for few Gentlemen, as that was;

but as men and things are generally grown worse and worse, so is this too, and strangely degenerated from an innocent, inoffensive diversion to be a perfect trade, a kind of set calling and occupation for cheats and sharpers. There are a great many of these *Tennis-courts* about town, but the place to which *Parry* resorted for the most part is the bottom of little *St. Martin's-street*. The numbers of *Rooks* and *Betters* that depend on this game also are almost miraculous; how they live I know not, but that they do live and very well too, (if such a way of life can be called well) get money, and spend high, is most certain.

Parry's daily attendance at the *Tennis-courts*, and other places of amusement, frequently so much drain'd him of the cash that was appointed by his Lady to pay the tradesmen, that he was obliged to practice the most artful shifts he could invent to deceive them; sometimes pretended my Lady was indispos'd, and at other times that she was deeply engaged in company; and play off a thousand such idle stories and forg'd excuses to colour his villainy; and this subterfuge serv'd him tolerably for some space to colour his roguery; for no one suspected him of being the man he really was. So that he ran on from one vice to another, until his circumstances obliged him to leave *England*, and take a final farewell of his service and *Country* both at once; but before he put his intended flight in execution, he took care to get near 800 *l.* in bank bills of Lady *Rockingham's* into his custody, which money was deliver'd to him to discharge the arrears due to her Ladyship's tradesmen; but he was determin'd that they should never handle a shilling of the money; but defrauded several of them a day or two before he absconded of divers sums under false tokens and pretences, and put the same to his own use.

A short time before his departure, he applied to one Mr. Scholler, a linendraper in New Bond-street, who had been steward to my Lady, and told him he wanted a dozen of fine neckcloths; the gentleman did not in the least imagine he intended to defraud him, but very readily delivered the goods and gave him credit. Three days before his flight he went again to the shop, and said, Mr. Scholler, *if you'll change me a bank bill, I will pay you for my neckcloths.* Mr. Scholler told him, it did not then suit him to change the note, and that he might pay him another time. *Well, then, Sir, (says Parry) I desire you would lend me 5 guineas till to-morrow, for I'm obliged to discharge a small bill of my Lady's this evening;* and the credulous linnendraper made no hesitation of disbursing the money he required; so that he has not only lost his ready cash but his goods also; and indeed it is very happy that he did not loose more, for he would have trusted this sharpening fellow a much greater sum than he ever asked of him.

THE Saturday before he left London, he borrowed 5 guineas of Mr. Thompson, a butcher of St. James's market, telling him that the money was for the use of his Lady, and promised to pay him on the Monday following.

THE same morning he put the like trick on Mr. Green, a Poulterer at the three pigeons in the same market; him he *touch'd* for *ten pieces*, swearing that he would repay him presently, or on Monday following without fail. The honest poulterer, little imagining what a snake lay in the grass, gave him the money; and from thence he departed, resolving to make the best of his market before he took his final farewell.

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He then apply'd to Mr. *Masters* in *Princess-Street*, near *St. Ann's, Soho*, and of this gentleman he borrowed 25 guineas, pretending that the money was for the use of my lady; a fraud not being in the least suspected, so he easily obtained the cash.

To carry on the cheat still further, the same day that he defrauded the above-nam'd tradesmen, he went to Mr. *Wharton*, a Woollen draper in *David-Street, Berkeley-Square*, and told him that my lady was at that time under a necessity of borrowing a little cash, and that he brought her ladyship's note for 25 *l.* which he desir'd might be immediately discounted. This gentleman was under some small consternation, and could not easily reconcile her ladyship's sending a note, which was a circumstance very doubtful; but the hand-writing being so exactly counterfeited, he did not apprehend there was forgery in the case; nor was he undeceived till it was publickly known that *Parry* had absconded with a large sum of my lady *Rockingham's*, with which he had been intrusted to pay off him, as well as others of her ladyship's tradesmen.

On *Saturday* night, the 21st of *July* last, (after he had borrowed money of every person he possibly could take in) he stroll'd to *Haddock's bagnio* at *Charing-cross*, where he lay that night with a favourite nymph, one *Molly G-----*, and tarried there great part of the next day in revels and debauchery, with that girl and some other town-ladies; but took particular care to keep his intentions of going off as an impenetrable secret.

On *Sunday* night he went home to my lady's, to prevent any suspicion in the family; he lay there that night, and rose early in the morning, under a pretence of going on business: but instead of so
doing

doing, he went and purchased a fine hanger, and after taking a parting glass with a female acquaintance or two, he hir'd a post-chaise, which carried him over *Westminster* bridge in his way to *Dartford* in *Kent*; he being determined to reach *Dover* that night, and get away to *France* with the greatest expedition he could. He got to *Dartford* about nine in the morning, and alighted at the post-office, where he breakfasted, gave the post-boy a shilling, and then ordered another chaise and fresh horses.

THIS stage carried him to *Rockester*, where he put up at the *Crown*, and after eating a broil'd chicken, and drinking a bottle of *French* wine, he pursued his journey to *Canterbury*, where he arriv'd about four in the afternoon; and, after refreshing himself at the *White Lion*, he got into a post-chaise, which in little more than two hours carried him to the *King's Head* at *Dover*. Here he immediately enquired for the commander of a vessel that was bound for *France*; but was informed that none were expected to sail the next tide, as it was apprehended there would not be a sufficient flow of water to carry them over *Dover* bar.

THIS conjecture greatly alarmed *Parry*; for as he knew his flight from *London* would soon be discovered, he was under the greatest terror and anxiety, well knowing that messengers would be dispatched to all the sea-ports to stop him from embarking. However, luckily for him, a brisk wind sprang up, and Capt. *Colsey* intending to sail for *Calais*, if he could get over the bar, all things succeeded, he embark'd between two and three in the morning, and, after a fine passage, landed at *Calais* key just as the town-clock struck nine. He now found himself in a foreign country, and was in raptures to think he had succeeded so well.

DURING

DURING the passage, *Parry* (who continued the whole time on deck, looking out sharp for fear another vessel should be sent after him to stop him, and bring him back again to *Dover*; intending, if it had so happen'd, to have thrown himself over-board, with the bank bills and money he had about him) and the captain, who is a hearty honest tar, regaled themselves with some wine and provisions which they had on board; and he treated the sailors with three bottles of brandy made into flip, and was likewise so generous, at his landing, as to make them a present of half a guinea to drink his health: he paid the captain, according to agreement, three guineas for his passage, there being no other passenger on board. Thus he spent lavishly of what was not his own, and took on him the borrowed name of 'Squire *Lewis*, a member of parliament; so that every time when the sons of *Nep-tune* drank to him, they complimented him with the title of *please your honour*, &c.

THE captain conducted our *new-fangled* 'squire to the sign of the *Silver Lion*, one of the grandest taverns in *Calais*, where most of the *English* nobility and gentry call when they make the tour of *France*; and at this house our 'squire invited the captain to take a dinner with him; which being readily accepted of, a genteel one was order'd; when they had din'd, they amused themselves with a walk about the town, not forgetting to call at the *Two English Brewers*, kept by one *Tucker*, an outlaw'd smuggler, who picks up a very good livelihood here by brewing malt liquor after the *English* manner, and would succeed better was the water fit for the purpose; but that liquid in *Calais*, and several miles round the neighbourhood, is the most intolerable of any part of *France*, scarcely fit for the meanest uses.

AFTER

AFTER two days stay in this town, to refresh himself after the fatigue of his journey and passage, and civilly taking leave of his captain, he hir'd a post-chaise and guide to carry him to the polite city of *Paris*, where, to his great joy, he arriv'd on *Monday* the 30th of *July*; and, being recommended by his *Calais* landlord, he alighted at a noted inn, known by the sign of *The English Parliament*. He told his host, who could speak *English* very well, that he should take it as a great favour if would recommend him to a *French* servant, who must be young, sprightly, and honest, and understand both *French* and *English*: As there are enow of these sort of gentry to be met with in *Paris*, our squire was soon accommodated with one to his mind; a Taylor was sent for, and both master and man were to be equipt *a la mode de Pari*, Parry not intending to appear in the public places of that gay city, till he could do it with a suitable splendor.

THE Taylor he employ'd to make him a *French* beau, was one Monsieur *Murphey*, a crafty and designing *Hibernian*, who had a good deal of knowledge of men and things, and had liv'd too long in the world to be easily deceiv'd himself, tho' he had too often put tricks on others: this man did not half relish the 'squire, and seem'd to hesitate about giving credit. Parry, who himself was no novice, presently took the hint, and drawing out a filken purse, well stock'd with gold and bank notes, presented a bill of 100 *l.* to the Taylor, as a security for what apparel he might want during his stay in *France*. This condescension put a good-natur'd smile on the *Hibernian's* face, who fawningly told the 'squire that he was the worthiest *English* gentleman he had ever met with in *Paris*: at the same time begging he would do him the honour to sup with him that evening at his house, where he

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might be sure of finding a glass of neat *Burgundy*, and a hearty welcome. This invitation was kindly accepted of, and our 'squire, attended by his servant, who walk'd before his chair, went according to the appointed hour, where he was received very politely, and introduc'd to *Monf. Murphey's* lady and daughter, and two or three more friends, who were invited to spend the evening.

THE *Irish* Taylors, with which *Paris* abounds, appear the most arrogant and conceited coxcombs on earth, and are complete masters of the art of chicane and flattery. The conversation of *Mademoiselle Murphey*, and her flaunting daughter, (who was dress'd up to the best advantage on this occasion) quite enamour'd our 'squire; and supper being ended, cards were order'd, and the company agreed to play at *Quadrille*, a game that *Parry* understood better perhaps than any of them, tho' he disguised his having any knowledge of the play, protesting he never before had made a party at it.

MURPHEY's pretty daughter was *Parry's* partner, a girl of 18, a most finish'd coquet, fraught with all the airs that are generally stamp'd on a woman of that character. At play they ogled one another, and miss acted her part so well, that our squire began to be amorous, and insisted on paying her losings, which amounted to only a few livres; this offer, after some faint denial, she accepted with a modest blush, and becoming behaviour, and loaded him with many pretty compliments for his civility, and the honour he did her in taking notice of her, &c. declaring that the *Welsh* had the greatest good-nature and best qualities of any gentlemen in *Britain*. Our 'squire little regarded his play, being much more attentive to the smiles and glances of his new conquest, as he flatter'd himself

himself she would soon be; for he was so positive and ambitious, and so fond of his own person and intrigues, that he believed the finest woman on earth was not able to hold out, if he could be only a few hours in her company.

THE night been agreeably spent, after compliments on both sides, *Parry* took leave of his dear enamouretta and the company, but not before he had order'd his servant to call a chair to carry him to his lodgings. Early the next morning he sent cards by his man to *Monf. Murphey*, his spouse, and pretty miss *Sukey*, (for that was the daughter's name) to dine with him that day; and hop'd no excuses they might make would deprive him of the pleasure of their company.

MONS. MURPHEY, on receipt of this message, immediately waited on the 'squire, and begg'd his pardon that he could not attend him, according to his request; for as he had order'd his cloaths to be ready the next day, it would be impossible to finish them, if he did not stick close to business; for he was certain none of his servants could finish them in the genteel taste he intended. This excuse was very agreeable to *Parry*, who dipatched his Taylor, on exacting a promise that he would dine with him the next day. Our 'squire did not stir from home that day, which he spent in ruminating in what manner he should complete his wishes.

EARLY in the morning *Parry* was disturb'd by *Murphey*, attended by two of his men, who came to fit on his new apparel, and that of his valet, which indeed was very gay, the master's being fine white *Spanish* cloth, trimm'd with a rich and beautiful lace; and the man's a fine blue-grey, with very neat trimmings, more becoming the servant

of a person of quality than the menial attendant of so great a villain; for, indeed this shining apparel was such as neither master or man had ever worn before.

THE Taylor brought him louis d'ors for his bank bill, and after being paid his demand, *Parry* made a present of half a louis to *Murphey's* men; and privately ordered his servant to give them half a crown each, which he had slipped into his hand for that purpose. *So free was this prodigal of what was not his own property.*

ALL the morning was spent in dress, that he might appear with the greater splendour to captivate his new mistress. A very elegant dinner was ordered, and the time fix'd was three in the afternoon; the guests were there exactly at the hour, and paid the visit to their new acquaintance in a genteel hir'd coach, attended by two footmen, which equipage is easily procured at *Paris* for a trifle. The table was spread with every thing the season afforded, and the most costly wines ordered in to complete the banquet. And *Parry* was so profusely extravagant, that he insisted they should tarry supper, he being so very fond of the company of his dear charmer. Dinner being over, miss proposed to play at *piquet* with 'squire *Lewis*; and and as this is a game that only two can play at, the artful hussy contriv'd it on purpose that she and her admirer might be left alone; and indeed this artful scheme succeeded to both their wishes: for old *Murphey* fill'd his pipe, and, with his spouse, took a turn into the garden; for many of the grand inns in *Paris*, and many other parts of *France*, have delightful walks. The reader may imagine the two lovers were not idle; but *what pass'd under the rose is not very material.* He declared that this intrigue,

trigue, a present of a fine necklace to miss, and the entertainment of the day, cost him upwards of twenty louis's, which, in the *British* currency, may be counted guineas. Our 'squire was here mistaken in his lady: he thought to have made a property of her; but he embrac'd a cloud instead of a *Juno*, and got nothing else to remember this expensive adventure, but a distemper which he did not very easily get rid of.

WE shall now leave our 'squire at Paris, shining with all the affected pomp of a *French petit-maitre*, and see what was doing in *England* in regard to his eminence. Lady *Rockingham*, discovering that he had left her service in so scandalous and villainous a manner, and cheated her tradesmen, took all the precautions possible to secure him, if he could be found in his majesty's dominions; she dispatch'd messengers to all suspected places, and advertised him in the *London Gazette*, *Daily Advertiser*, and other public papers, describing his person, the value and numbers of the bank notes he had carried off, and offer'd a reward of five guineas for apprehending him: but all this was to no purpose, for 'squire *Lewis* had pitch'd his tent in the land of safety, as he thought; but he greatly deceiv'd himself: for her ladyship's agents ferretted him out of his lurking-holes in *France*, after he had skulk'd in Paris, and its neighbourhood several months, under the abovesaid fictitious name of *Lewis*; and the very day he was taken up, he was committed to a common prison, and had for his companions thieves and murderers.

HE was apprehended on a special order from the *French* king, at the instance of his excellency the earl of *Albemarle*, his *Britannick* majesty's minister at the court of Paris, his lordship having previous
notice

notice from lady *Rockingham* of the crimes he had committed in *England*. The person that betray'd him was one of the journeymen employ'd by his *Irish* Taylor, who happen'd accidentally to read the advertisement, which describ'd him, at the *English* coffee-house in Paris.

HER Ladyship was determined if possible, to bring him over to *England*, and prosecute him for a breach of trust; but the *French* court refused to deliver him up, which *Parry* being acquainted with, he took no precaution to secure the bank notes he had still left, which amounted to 400*l.* and upwards. In order to recover them, if it was practicable, she sent over a clerk belonging to *Albert Nesbitt*, Esq; a wealthy banker in *Coleman street*, attended by another proper person, and they succeeded in the errand.

ON his arrival at *Paris*, the young gentleman, pursuant to the instructions he had receiv'd in *England*, apply'd to a proper magistrate, and made an affidavit of the identical person of *Parry*, and in what capacity he was employ'd by the Lady, and that the said notes were her property. Hereupon the magistrate sent a proper officer to the prison where *Parry* was confined, who had authority to search him, and seize all the bank notes he found in his custody, but had a strict charge not to touch a farthing of his cash. Both prisoner and notes were brought before the magistrate, and *Parry* having nothing to say in his excuse, the notes were delivered to Mr. *Nesbitt's* clerk, and *Parry* was remanded to prison, and the next morning receiv'd a *letter de catchet*, ordering his discharge on paying the proper fees, and commanding him to leave the city of *PARIS* in 48 hours, and the *Kingdom of France* in ten days, on pain of being hang'd up immediately if he disobey'd the order. But notwithstanding this
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strict and absolute injunction, he did not obey the king's command, but after he got his enlargement from prison lay concealed for some time in the house of an irish barber; and at length got a conveyance by land to *Marseilles*, where he embarked for *Venice* in *Italy*; having at this time near 300*l.* in cash; his design was to settle in some part of *Italy*, and never more to return to *England*, dreading the consequence of his Lady's displeasure, if providence should put it in her power to punish him.

THE way he proposed to live in *Italy*, particularly at *Leghorn*, was by gaming, in which he succeeded well at *PARIS*, and might have supported himself by his luck, and saved his ready money, had his luxury, extravagance, and taste for women, been restrained within any proper bounds; but this last vice was unlimited, an evil which has been very fatal to this unhappy man, but which I am sorry to say he has never lamented, not even since his condemnation.

WHILST he remained in *Italy*, he spent his time much in the same idle and ridiculous manner he had done in *France*, but not with the same success, for here he lost a pretty deal of his money; and unhappily having an intrigue with a married woman, by a contrivance between them it is thought the husband had not fair play for his life. It is certain he left that *Country* in a great hurry, and embarked on board an *English* ship bound for *London*, having agreed with the captain for the cabin, and ten guineas for his passage, pretending that he was a *Kentish* gentleman, and would be landed at *Woolwich*.

THERE happened nothing particular during the voyage, only that most part of the weather was very tempestuous, the *Levant-winds* blowing very strong
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at that season of the year, it being in the months of *February* and *March*; but however *Parry* was in no danger, for he verifi'd the old saying, which is better understood than express'd.

On Sunday the 22d of *March* last, he arriv'd safe in the river *Thames*, and according to his desire, he was put ashore at *Woolwich*, in the forenoon of that day; after refreshing himself, he walk'd on foot to Mr. *Gibson's*, at the *Vine* at *Vaux-hall*, intending to tarry there 'till he had provided himself with a lodging more secret, and proper for his purpose; for he was fully determined to take the road, and so made his choice of a short life and a merry one, his finances being almost exhausted.

As we have hitherto been very cautious of advancing any circumstance relating to this criminal but what is really matter of fact, so we will not venture to say, that he committed any public robberies before he went to *France*, yet it is confidently affirmed by many that he now-and-then borrowed a purse on the road to furnish him with a little ready cash. Here follow the robberies he committed till the Saturday night he was apprehended.

The *Monday* after his arrival at *Vaux-Hall* he did nothing.——His first Robbery was on miss *Murrell*; he attack'd her chariot on *Tuesday* Night *March* the 25th between nine and ten o'Clock, just by lord *Chesterfield's* wall, and ordering the coachman to stop, he presented his pistol to the lady, and bid her not be surpris'd, for he must have her money, watch, and jewels, or she should instantly die; he took from this lady, her purse, in which was seven guineas, her gold watch, a diamond ring, and some other things; and then ordered the coachman to drive on, and the lady got safe to her house in
Golden-

Golden-square without any other harm than being affrighted. This robbery he committed on a brown mare, the property of a person who little imagined for what purpose he borrowed her.

THE two followings nights, he committed five robberies : The first was on *Ambrose Dawson* Esq; doctor of physick. The doctor was in his chariot, and passing through *Berkeley-street*, near *Berkeley-square*, he stopp'd him, and took his gold watch, money, &c. and the same night he pledg'd the watch at Mr. *Scriven's* a pawnbroker in *Swallow-street*, for nine guineas.

THE same night he robb'd *Alexander Nesbett*, Esq; (brother to Mr. *Nesbett*, the banker) of his watch, money, &c. The watch he immediately pledg'd with a pawnbroker facing the *five-bells* tavern in *Wyck-street* near *Drury-lane*, telling the man his name was *Joe Thompson*.

HE afterwards attack'd Miss *Wentworth*, in her coach between *South Audley-street*, and *Henrietta-street*, *Cavendish-square*, as she was going home in her coach with her brother ; he robb'd this lady of her gold watch, money, &c. and then rode off to Mr. *Gunston's*, a pawnbroker in *Germaine-street*, *St. James's*, where he pledg'd the watch for nine guineas in the name of *Thompson*.

HE afterwards went into *Hill-street*, *Berkely-square*, where he stopp'd capt. *Proby*, who was in a coach with his brother lord *Carryfort*, and robb'd this gentleman of his watch, six guineas and other things. And the same night he committed another robbery and when he had ended his collection for that evening he rode out by hyde-park-corner, and went to the *Queen-arms* at *Fulham*, where he supp'd and lay

that night. Wherever he went, he was very cautious to avoid all company, (except the ladies) lest he should be known and betray'd.

ON the *Thursday* morning he cross'd *Fulham-bridge*, and came to the *Vine* at *Vaux-hall*, and in the evening went in search of new adventures. The first attack he made was on a lady in *Grosvenor-square*, whom he robb'd of all the money she had about her. There were three other ladies in the coach, but he took nothing from them, because he saw some people approaching, who he thought might surprize him.

HE did nothing more that night, but rode to *Duke-street*, *St. James's*, and stopping at the *Unicorn*, he sent a chairman with his horse to *Vaux-hall*, and gave the man half a crown for his trouble. He afterwards went to favourite NYMPH of his, and press'd her and another female companion to take a supper with him at the *Bedford* tavern in *Covent-garden*, which invitation being accepted, he ordered a genteel supper; and, to complete his happiness, afterwards went and took a night-repose with one of the NYMPH's at *Shelton's* bagnio in *Leicester-fields*, where he staid breakfast; and next morning afterwards went to *Mr. Freeman's* the corner of *Lancaster-court* in the *Strand*, where he bought a pair of pistols; and from thence to the bolt-and tun inn, *Fleet-street*, where he purchased a dainty mare for 12 guineas that had been advertised to be sold, being determined to equip himself for his new profession in a very handsome manner. He did no robbery on the *Friday*, but went to *Vaux-hall* and spent the day there.

ON *Saturday* morning he took a ride to *Putney* to try his mare, and tarried at the *White-lion* till seven

at night, and came into town thro' tyburn-turnpike, resolving to borrow a purse or two, but he was unluckily mistaken, for instead of a prize he caught a tartar, as will presently appear.

BESIDES these robberies, he had perpetrated several others, which had so alarmed the quality and gentry, that they were afraid to stir out. Constables, headboroughs, and other Assistants, were ordered to patrol about the great squares and streets which this robber infested; but, instead of doing their business in a secret manner, they blow'd a horn, (or more properly alarm'd all passengers) so that all their attempts to seize *Parry* were ineffectual.

ON the *Saturday* night that he was apprehended, four resolute men went in search of him, and planned themselves about *Grosvenor-square*, and its neighbourhood. Two of them saw a man on horseback come down *Bird street*, who walk'd the horse gently to *Brook street*, and as *Parry* came opposite lord *Rothes's* door Mr. *Norton*, one of the four, catch'd hold of the horse's bridle; Mr. *Peell* was with him, and *Parry* demanded what they wanted? They told him that a great many robberies had been committed thereabouts by a man on horseback, and they must have an account of him. He reply'd that he was a gentleman come from *Oxford*, and liv'd in *Bloomsbury-square*: But, as they found he was preparing to defend himself, they secured his hands, notwithstanding which he found means to stab Mr. *Peell* in the hand. By this time Mr. *Hind* came up, and they all endeavour'd to dismount him, but could not, 'till a bitch, belonging to Mr. *Norton*, seiz'd the mare by the throat, and brought her to the ground. This valuable bitch, who has much more sagacity than the famous *French* dog that was shewn in *London*, can scent out a rogue, and has learnt

learnt the art of thief-catching better than the person that taught her. — When Parry was seized, they found nine guineas and a half in his pocket.

ALL this pass'd without the least noise or disturbance; and Parry being put into a coach was immediately carried before Mr. *Fielding*, where he own'd several robberies. He was that night, and all *Sunday*, lodg'd for security in *Tot-hill-fields-bridewell*, where several of his acquaintance came to condole him. On *Monday* morning he was again brought before the Justice, for further examination, when prosecutors appeared against him. He behaved very ingenuous, and did not pretend to deny what was alledg'd against him; on which his worship committed him to *Newgate*, and in April sessions 1754. he was try'd at the Old baily, and capitally convicted for robbing Dr. *Dawson*: There were three other indictments against him, but the court thought it unnecessary to try him on any of them, as he made no defence on the first. He appeared at the bar in a suit of black made on purpose for the solemn occasion, and was greatly lamented by the ladies, with which the court was crowded. He is now confined in one of the cells of *Newgate*, where he has many visitants; and we wish we could say that he behaves with that decency and resignation as becomes a man in his Circumstances.

THUS we have given as good an account of Parry as was possible to procure from the most authentic vouchers; for as to himself he will say nothing; but, like one of *Paul Lorain's* children, continues hardy and obstinate, being resolved, as he terms it, to die a Cock.

